

## **BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)**

Policy Committee Minutes - December 17, 2008

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### **Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

Those present were: Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Susan Richardson, MDOT Planning; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Mike Niederquel, Wade Trim; Ronald Campbell, Frankenlust Township Supervisor; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor; Jim Bedell, City of Bay City; and Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff.

### **Introductions of New Members:**

Introductions were made for the new BCATS Policy Committee members, Ronald Campbell, Frankenlust Township Supervisor and Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor. Welcome!

### **Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Augustyniak, seconded by Brandt, to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2008 meeting. Motion Passed

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

### **Update From Bay Metro Transit:**

Stoner was not present and no update was given.

### **Public Hearing on Marquette Safety Project & Bridge Rehab Projects 2011:**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:36 p.m. by Dale Majerczyk, Chairman of the BCATS Policy Committee. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the amendment to the FY2008/09/10/11 TIP allowing for the addition of the Marquette Safety Project in 2009 and the rehabilitation projects for structural repairs on Liberty Bridge and Independence Bridge in 2011. Discussion ensued.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 1:38 p.m.

### **Approval of Three Project Addition to 2011 TIP:**

The Marquette Safety Project received \$400,000 for the grant. It is expected that the project has to be submitted before August of 2009, with a possible 2010 construction. The Liberty Bridge and Independence Bridge both need structural repairs to rehabilitate the bridges.

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Begick, to approve the addition of the Marquette Safety Project, the Liberty Bridge Rehabilitation Project, and the

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Independence Bridge Rehabilitation Project to the 2008/09/10/11 TIP. Motion passed

### **BCATS 2010-11-12-13 TIP Development:**

BCATS will need to have all projects in the 2010-11-12-13 TIP included and prioritized by February 2009 to have BCATS approval of the TIP by June 2009. Projects in 2010 and 2011 should match the 2008-11 TIP. Although new estimated funding levels for 2009, 2010, and 2011 are less than currently programmed in the current TIP, comments by both Rick Fowler, MDOT and Rachael Tupica, FHWA at the 12/4/08 BCATS Technical Committee meeting that as the funding differences are less than 10% different they did not believe we should alter the funding levels in the current TIP.

With all the discussion of an Obama Stimulus Package, there may be a need to have projects listed in the STIP that can be turned around in 180 days in order to receive this Federal aid. Richardson reminded everyone that it's important to put all needs down in writing and to submit them to the legislature, otherwise the government won't know about local transportation needs. All agencies should assemble a list of projects that can be ready to go on short notice for any new funding that becomes available from the stimulus package. If possible, MPOs should add information regarding how many jobs can be created by each project.

### **Transportation Funding Task Force Results:**

Engelhardt provided everyone with a handout of the Transportation Funding Task Force results. The task force made some recommendations, however nothing was resolved. The task force was created to look at current funding and determine what direction movement needs to occur. No one is sure what action will come out of the task force results.

### **Non-Motorized Efforts Update:**

Engelhardt gave an update on the progress of Phase II of the Tri-County Regional Path Study. In Phase II sub-groups have been created to look into which routes in their area would make for the best connectivity between the Tri-Cities. A final report will be available by the end of the month. Over the next year BCATS will be updating the non-motorized trail plan which will refer to the Tri-County Path Study for connection options.

### **BCATS Annual Report:**

The BCATS Annual Report is placed as a 3/4 page ad in the Bay City Times on the last Saturday of the calendar year (December 27, 2008). Engelhardt explained that it was important to have the annual report posted to let the public know about BCATS and what projects are facilitated through BCATS.

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### **Projects Update:**

The Christa McAuliffe Safe Routes to School Project is getting ready for construction in 2009. Sidewalks will be put in but there are some drainage issues that will have to be resolved. The **Pine Street Project** is complete. The **Harrison Street Project** is waiting on the acquisition of three things: 1. A rail road permit, 2. Archeological approval, and 3. A Memorandum of Understanding stating that requirements are understood and will be followed. Once these three things have been acquired, the project will be ready to go out for bid with a Spring construction. The survey was completed for the **Johnson Street Project** is waiting on the design. The **North Henry Street Project** is nearly finalized with some clean-up still need in the Spring.

### **Other/New Business:**

#### ***Federal Transportation Projects:***

Richardson commented that it was very important to submit any Federal projects immediately in order to have 2009 approval to move forward as the obligation authority may run out before the end of the fiscal year. SAFETEA-LU expires on October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2009.

#### ***Annual List of Projects:***

Engelhardt gave everyone a handout of the review list of 2008 annual projects prior to being place on the BCATS website for comments or corrections.

As there was no further business, the December 17, 2008 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt  
BCATS Director

*Transcribed by C. Gaul*

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